

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3883

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AEC GERMANTOWN

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 0823

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA PLEDGES IAEA SAFEGUARDS
ON NEW ENRICHMENT

1. BRITISH RESREP HAS DRAWN OUR ATTENTION TO FOLLOWING
PASSAGE IN SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN MULLER'S GENERAL DEBATE
SPEECH TO UNGA OCTOBER 5, 1973:

"SOUTH AFRICA'S ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM IS DEVOTED
TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES EXCLUSIVELY. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
OUR POLICY, AND IT REMAINS OUR POLICY, TO SEEL URANIUM
ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THE URANIUM BE MADE SUBJECT
TO INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY OR EQUIVALENT
SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT DIVERTED TO
MILITARY PURPOSES. IN THE SAME SPIRIT, THE URANIUM
ENRICHMENT PROJECT TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED WILL
ALSO BE APPLIED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. TO THAT END
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO NEGOTIATE, AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME, AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY FOR THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS
TO THE ENRICHED URANIUM PRODUCED BY THE PROJECT, SO AS
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TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCT IS USED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL

PURPOSES."

2. THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY SAG WE HAVE SEEN WHICH INDICATES IT WILL REQUIRE IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON ENRICHED URANIUM PRODUCED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW ENRICHMENT PROCESS - APPARENTLY REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ENRICHED MATERIAL USED DOMESTICALLY OR EXPORTED. AS SUCH IT IS STEP FORWARD. SOUTH AFRICA HAS LONG HAD POLICY OF REQUIRING RECIPIENT TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS ON IT EXPORTS OF NATURAL URANIUM TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. MULLER STATEMENT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, COMMIT SAG TO PERMIT SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED TO ENRICHMENT PLANT ITSELF.LABOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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